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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT NO. _____TOPIC Soviet Troops at Training Grounds East of WITTSTOCK

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EVALUATION _____ DE OBTAINED _____

DATE OF COM _____

DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 15 November 1949

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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16 August to 10 September 1949

1. Observations made in the WITTSTOCK (N 54/U 11) area:

a. Trains proceeding via WITTSTOCK-GROSS. HASSLOW
(N 54/U 21) towards DRANSE (N 54/U 22):16 August 1949:(1) Eight trains of ten flatcars and four to six boxcars
each loaded with sections of cantonment buildings.

(2) Two trains of 12 tank cars each.

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23 September 1949c. Five tanks [] were entrained at the WITTSTOCK rail-
road station and shipped towards PRITZWALK (N 54/T 91).
They had come from the SCHNEINRICH (N 54/U 22) artillery
range.**CONFIDENTIAL**CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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5 September 1949

3. Two railroad cars with eight pontoons and four railroad cars with accessory equipment were unloaded in DRANSE. The equipment had come from the direction of NEUSTRELITZ (N 54/U 54), and was bound for the SCH. BIERICH artillery range.

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8 September 1949

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[REDACTED] hauled empty ammunition boxes (for shells of about 80 mm caliber) from the direction of SCHWENRICH to the WITTSTOCK railroad station between 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The boxes were loaded on three railroad cars by artillery and tank soldiers.



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The train, on which six officers, 20 NCOs and about 250 AM were also observed, left WITTSTOCK heading towards PRITZWALK - PERLEBERG (M 54/T 70).

10 September 1949

1. About 400 recruits, 30 NCOs and 15 officers from PERLEBERG arrived in DRANSE aboard a passenger train. The troops left DRANSE, marching towards SCHWENRICH. The officers wore tank and artillery insignia. A colonel, a tank major and an artillery major were ranking officers.

Mid-August 1949

2. Craftsmen from MIROW (M 54/U 33) were working on the enlargement of the cantonment near SCHWENRICH. They stated that about three thousand troops had recently moved into the cantonment, which had been expanded to the east.

23 September 1949

3. a. Ten T34 tanks [REDACTED] were entrained at the WITTSTOCK railroad station. The vehicles had come from the direction of SCHWENRICH.

b. Other materiel had been loaded there during the preceding days.

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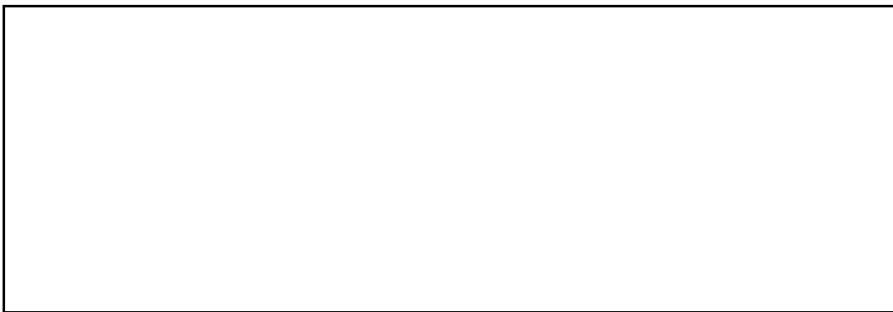
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26 to 28 September 1949

4. Soviet units had been concentrated for maneuvers in the area southeast of WITTSOCK, south of SCHWABIRICH, mainly at ZOOTSSEN (N 54/U 21). Large cantonment buildings and tent camps were observed east of ZOOTSSEN and southeast of SCHWABIRICH. The following observations were made:

26 September 1949

- a. Tank exercises were held near GADOW (N 54/U 21). Six to ten T34 tanks were observed practicing attack, moving rapidly in staggered formation under covering crossfire.
- b. Six T34 tanks were seen moving from BABITZ (N 54/U 21) towards SCHWABIRICH in the morning of the same day.

27 September 1949

- c. Four two-axle prime movers hauling 150-mm howitzers proceeded from WITTSOCK towards ZOOTSSEN. The eight to ten-man gun crews were mounted on the prime movers.

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September 1949

5. a. Artillery units from PARSBERG moved to the SCHWABIRICH area for maneuvers in late August and early September 1949.
- b. A cantonment of about 30 buildings was observed in the SCHWABIRICH area. It had numerous wells and a water main several miles long.
- c. Several tanks were observed standing in excavations in the ground during the maneuvers in the GROSS HESLOW area.
- d. The maneuvers allegedly were to end in mid-October 1949, when the units were to leave for winter quarters. **

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[REDACTED] Comment:

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[REDACTED] indicates that the 18th Meck Div with most of its component units was still concentrated for maneuvers in the WITTSTOCK-SCHWEINRICH training area in late September 1949 (evaluation of motor vehicle numbers). A few units of the 94th Gds Itz Rifle Div, the 9th Gds Tank Div and the 12th Gds Tank Div were also engaged in maneuvers in this area at the same time. Some component units of the Fourth Gds Meck Army (Cadre) may also have participated in the maneuvers. It is assumed, therefore, that the final maneuvers of the 18th Meck Div were conducted in the WITTSTOCK area about the end of September 1949, with component units of the Second Gds Meck Army and possibly of the Fourth Gds Meck Army (Cadre) participating.

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c. It was also reported from other army areas in the Soviet Zone of Germany that summer maneuvers were to end in October 1949.

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